



TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

February 1, 2022



ADMINISTRATION:

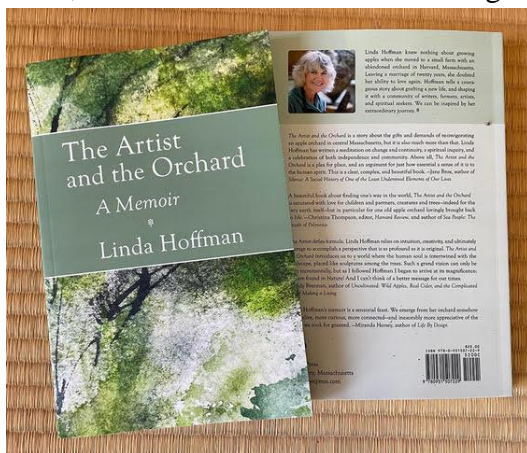
- Annual Town Report submissions from town bodies are due to Assistant Town Administrator (ATA) Megan Zammuto by February 11, 2022.
- Town Administrator Greg Johnson attended the Finance Committee meeting to provide an overview and answer questions regarding his submitted Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23) Town Administrator's Recommended Budget.
 - Governor Baker's recently released state budget proposal shows a decrease of \$204,000 from the TA FY23 Recommended Budget's revenue projection.
 - The town's Free Cash from FY21 was certified by the state's Department of Revenue on Jan 28, 2022. TA Johnson's preliminary draft proposal for this amount is provided to the Select Board for their consideration.
- TA Johnson attended the final Green Meadow School visioning session to participate in ideas towards the designing of the future of the elementary school.
- TA Johnson will be serving on the ad hoc interview team to support Maynard Housing Authority's search for a new Housing Authority Executive Director.
- TA Johnson was re-renewed to serve on the Massachusetts Municipal Managers Association (MMA) Future Managers Committee for CY2022.
- The town's finance team is expected to host the town's contracted auditing firm, represented by Terenzio Volpicelli, CPA of Roselli, Clark & Associates, CPAs, beginning Monday, January 31, 2022 for the annual regular audit.

LIBRARY:

- At the end of December, due to the rise in Covid cases, the library suspended group use of meeting rooms and converted planned in-person programs to online. We will continue to monitor pandemic developments and adjust accordingly.
- There has been a tremendous response to the library's needle-felted **hedgehog craft program** for adults and teens, with over 100 people participating. Registrants pick up a kit at the library and then, at their convenience, watch a recorded video to learn how to needle-felt merino wool. The video is available through February 15. Kit reservations are now full.



- Beginning in February, **AARP tax preparation assistance** will be offered to low- and middle-income taxpayers, with special attention to those aged 60 and over. Call 978-760-9146 to schedule an appointment to drop off your materials with an AARP volunteer at the library.
- On Tuesday, February 8, at 7:00pm, the library will host an **online talk by artist and author Linda Hoffman**. In 2006, Hoffman moved to an abandoned apple orchard in Harvard. At that time, she “didn’t know the first thing about growing apples.” She turned Old Frog Pond Farm into the first organic pick-your-own apple orchard in the state. Hoffman will discuss her life, her work, and the writing of her memoir, *The Artist and the Orchard*. Register at maynardpubliclibrary.org/calendar.



- On Tuesday, February 15, at 8:00pm, the library will host an online program on **Baby/Toddler Healthy Sleep Habits**. Emma Jackson, certified pediatric sleep consultant and coach, will review some of the most common baby and child sleep issues, as well as evidence-based quick tips for recovering from those issues. Emma will then take questions from attendees.
- The library has launched a **Spice Club**, which was recently featured in a [Beacon-Villager article](#). Each month, participants get a kit with a sample of a different spice and a variety of recipes to try featuring that spice. Results can be shared on social media (#maynardspiceclub or @maynardpubliclibrary) and in an optional Zoom discussion. January’s spice is ginger, and February’s will be cardamom. Learn more and register at maynardpubliclibrary.org/spice.



- In other spice news, the library has partnered with Open Table in a **Spice Drive** to source expensive, yet essential, components of native Afghan recipes. Individuals are encouraged to donate unopened spices so refugee families can maintain a sense of cultural identity and family traditions. Donations can be dropped off at the library's circulation desk.
- Jane Oneail presents the latest in the library's popular series of online art talks on Monday, February 28, at 7:00pm. Our subject will be **artist Faith Ringgold**, who is celebrated for a career exploring race in the American experience. This program will cover the breadth of her creative output, including paintings, sculpture, performance art, and her beloved story quilts. Funding for this program is provided by the Friends of the Maynard Public Library. Learn more and register at maynardpubliclibrary.org/art-talks.



- **Baby Storytimes** are held on Mondays at 11:00am, either online or outdoors (weather depending), for children aged 0-2 years. Sing songs, listen to stories, and act out rhymes with Ms. Casey at this storytime for the youngest of library visitors. Register at maynardpubliclibrary.org/calendar
- **Mr. Mark's Online Storytime** for children aged 3 and up is held each Tuesday afternoon at 3:30. Kids aged 8-12 can join the **Big Kid Book Club**, which meets online on Wednesdays at 4:00pm. To register for either program, contact Mr. Mark at mmalcolm@minlib.net or 978-897-1010 x106.

- The **Book Mill discussion group** will have its next meeting online on Tuesday, February 22, at 7:00pm. This month's book selection is *The Vanishing Half*, by Brit Bennett. A novel about twin sisters growing up in the segregated South, it is a story of family and an exploration of the American history of passing. Contact Sally Thurston at sthurston@minlib.net to receive a link.
- Our new Collection Services Librarian, **Rachel Alexander**, joined the team in January. Stop by, say hello, and help us welcome her!



- Current library hours are: Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday, 10am-5pm; and Tuesday and Thursday, 2pm-9pm. See upcoming library events at maynardpubliclibrary.org

COUNCIL ON AGING:

- The Council on Aging is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The COA provides information and referral for supportive services including home care, health insurance counseling, fuel assistance, food resources, housing, legal issues, public assistance programs and transportation. The Council on Aging accepts and lends durable medical equipment.
- The Council on Aging van service is providing transportation Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Destinations include medical appointments, grocery shopping and personal needs such as banking and hair salons.
- The COA sponsored two Grab-n-Go luncheon which provided a hot meal delivered (by Flo's Catering) drive-through style at the Maynard Elks Club.



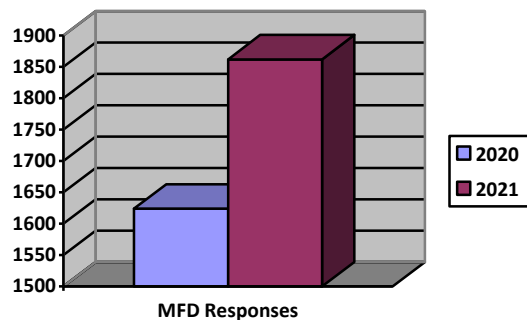
- The COA produced a December/January newsletter promoting the COA's activities, including arts and craft classes, nature and classic comedy series and virtual fitness classes. The newsletter also included the Maynard COA Book Club, 6 Bridges Gallery exhibitions, Maynard Library programs, Open Table and Maynard Food Pantries, fuel assistance guidelines and Rep. Kate Hogan's monthly article.
- The COA continues to offer fitness classes via Zoom. The COA Book Club includes seniors from Georgia, Virginia and New York in addition to Maynard seniors!



- The COAs offers an iPad and Chromebooks lending program for those with limited financial resources to increase opportunities for Zoom classes, online activity, and the means to contact friends and family.
- Council on Aging Director Amy Loveless attended Minuteman Senior Services Annual Meeting, the Making the Connections transportation meeting, as well as monthly meetings with area COA directors. In addition, COA Director Amy Loveless is participating in the Green Meadow Visioning Workshop.

FIRE DEPARTMENT:

- In December, the Maynard Fire Department responded to 166 requests for services. We continue to see a rise in emergency call volume compared to last year.



2020 Maynard Fire responded 1624 incidents

vs.

2021 Maynard Fire responded 1862 incidents

14.66%

- The Digital Way complex growth directly affects the call volume. 2021 MFD responded to 165 medical calls compared to 45 calls for fire suppression apparatus. The number of incidents to Digital Way accounts for almost the difference between 2020 to 2021 total incidents. Based on this trend, responses will increase for the Maynard Fire Department. 16 Digital Way is not at capacity due to COVID precautions. Emerson Urgent Care facility located at 3 Digital Way, now under construction, is also expected to increase our responses to the complex.
- Increased call volume on public safety departments is not an issue exclusive to Maynard Fire. In December, Maynard Fire Department responded to our mutual aid communities on six occasions. Due to simultaneous calls or the need for additional resources, the Maynard Fire Department requested assistance from our surrounding communities for 15 of our incidents.
- We have continued issuing permits and reviewing plans for fire prevention. December concluded our inspections for businesses intending to maintain a valid liquor license.
- December concluded another round of year-long Emergency Medical Education for our membership. Our members are certified as Emergency Medical Technicians and have renewed certification for another year. Our EMS training will resume in April 2022.
- We still have an adequate supply of personal protective equipment (PPE) for the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.
- Looking ahead, the Maynard Fire Department membership will be training directly with Eversource in January and February to increase the department's knowledge of natural gas and propane incidents. The communities request for our response to gas-related calls has increased. Maynard Fire wants to ensure we are prepared to keep the customer's confidence levels high when our services are requested.
- The construction of the new fire station is on track. The building is taking shape for everyone to see as they travel through town.
- Chief Stowers had an unexpected medical leave and is recuperating better than anticipated. Captain Lawless has been working as Acting Chief, and Firefighter Mark Tomyl has been promoted to Acting Captain of Group 3. Chief Stowers is expected to return to work in February.

PUBLIC WORKS:

- The Highway Department is performing regular asphalt maintenance repair of potholes. Asphalt deterioration increases during winter snow and ice operations, i.e., plowing, freezing / heaving. Public Works perform asphalt repairs throughout the winter season on average two to three days a week, weather prohibiting.



-
- The Department of Public Works will be canceling our upcoming scheduled Christmas Tree recycling date of January 29th due to inclement weather. Please have questions submitted to DPW@townofmaynard.com
- The Facilities Department continues conducting cleanout, and improvements for additional office space needs at Town Hall.



- Eversource is installing upgrade electrical infrastructure to support water quality inspection upgrade project at the water storage tanks for the Department of Public Works.



MUNICIPAL SERVICES:

ArtSpace Update from Gail Erwin:

A lot has happened at ArtSpace Over the last few weeks. At the Board of Directors' Annual Meeting on January 10, we elected two new Board members, Farooq Siddique and Steve Weiner. Farooq Siddique is an Environmental and Civil Engineer and Steve Weiner is the retired Director of the Maynard Public Library. John Houchin and Raquel Bauman resigned from the Board of Directors effective at the end of 2021.

We submitted an application for a grant to the Mass. Cultural Council's Cultural Facilities Fund. During the process we asked for community support via letters addressed to the Fund. Thanks to all who wrote on our behalf. We received over 90 letters of support from Town leaders, community leaders, ArtSpace artists, former exhibitors, local businesses, students and their parents. ArtSpace artists also showed their support by making donations. We had 98% participation and some generous tenants offered to cover for those who could not participate. We feel grateful, proud and humbled by the outpouring of support.

Glenn Davis, our Architect, met with Rick Asmann, Maynard's Building Commissioner, and presented a plan to complete necessary repair work to bring ArtSpace back to full occupancy. This plan was endorsed by Mr. Asmann. Since then we have engaged a contractor to begin formulating a construction plan while the application for a building permit moves forward. We have engineers—mechanical, electrical and structural—ready to submit proposals for repairs and improvements.

On Saturday, January 1, we were surprised with a broken pipe in the boiler room that necessitated turning the heat off in the building. We had two companies on site by Wednesday, hired one of them and the pipe was fixed and heat restored by Friday afternoon. We have a quote in hand from the same company for another problematic pipe so we can proceed quickly if needed.

We feel ArtSpace has crossed a threshold and we are poised for success in 2022.

Thank you all for your continued support.

Gail Erwin
President
Board of Directors
Artspace Maynard